

thinking about firing him. Now people want to smear all of this: It is a mistake.

The real question is: What are you hiding?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE), my friend from Philadelphia, who is a pretty happy camper because his Eagles are going to be playing in the Super Bowl on Sunday.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend for his belief early on in the season in the Eagles, despite the fact he is a die-hard Broncos fan. The Super Bowl will be a nice diversion from the seriousness of the subject that we are discussing and debating tonight.

Let me take us back a bit to a couple of events that, yes, may have happened a little bit before I was born, but I know well as a student of American history. I fear that we are on the verge of repeating them, possibly only days away on the verge of repeating them.

In October 1973, the Watergate investigation was being conducted by the special counsel, Archibald Cox. It had been going on, at that point, for most of 1973. On a Saturday night, President Nixon decided to fire the special counsel, in part, because the special counsel was doing his job and was getting too close to uncovering the conspiracy.

President Nixon ordered his Attorney General to fire the special counsel. The Attorney General proved to be a profile in courage and refused. It then went to the Deputy Attorney General. The Deputy Attorney General refused. Finally, the number three man, the Solicitor General, named Robert Bork, decided that he would follow what President Nixon wanted and fired Archibald Cox. That became known as the Saturday Night Massacre.

When John Chancellor, then the anchor for NBC News, came on the air—and I was recently rewatching this—he said: Tonight, I utter words I never thought I would say, but we are in the midst of the greatest constitutional crisis in the history of the Republic.

I fear that history may very well repeat itself. We now know, since we were last in session—and it has been reported and confirmed by many media outlets, including FOX News—that President Trump has ordered his own White House attorney to fire the special counsel.

Why? If the President really has nothing to hide, then why would he fire the special counsel and want to bring this process to an end? It gets back to the very first question that my colleague from Colorado has asked: What does he have to hide?

I sincerely hope that the special counsel will find and will prove that nothing happened. That would be the best outcome and best course for all of us as Americans. But, boy, if the President is innocent, he sure isn't acting like it.

We must come together—as Democrats and Republicans second, but as

Americans first—and do what is in the best interest of justice and of this country and say that the special counsel must be allowed to continue his work until its natural conclusion.

If the President moves to fire the special counsel, that, by its very definition, is obstructing justice. This body and the other body on the other side of this building cannot allow that to happen.

Here is the good news. In Watergate, ultimately, the American people didn't let it happen. There was such an outcry on a bipartisan basis that, within 48 hours, President Nixon had relented and appointed another special counsel, Leon Jaworski, who ended up being just as dogged, pursued the President all the way to the Supreme Court. Then the Supreme Court ruled, unanimously, that President Nixon had to hand over the tapes even though three of the eight Justices were Nixon appointees.

President Nixon, actually, to his credit, complied with that Supreme Court order and released the tapes, including a few tapes that clearly proved he was guilty—the so-called smoking gun—and, within about a week or two, resigned in August of 1974.

We can prevent that history from repeating itself if we act here in Congress to ensure there is a proper procedure in place to protect the integrity of this investigation. If that does not take place, there will be, I predict, an outcry of the American people you have not seen or heard since October 1973. This country and its institutions are a heck of a lot more important than any political party, and it is about time all of us in this body act in such a way that shows we believe in those words.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Pennsylvania for the history lesson he just reminded us about. His words are ones that I don't think I can add anything to.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN), my friend, if he has anything else to add.

But I just want the Speaker to know and I want this Chamber to know that we are not going to go away. We are not going to allow things to be hidden. We are not going to allow things to be covered up. This has got to run its full course, just as my friend said.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

We are being taken back to the lessons of Watergate tonight. The system worked in the 1970s. The checks and balances that our Founders put in place took effect. The public stepped up. The media stepped up. People of conscience in important positions within the government stood their ground and did the right thing.

But I think it would be foolish for us not to take the threats of this moment in our history very, very seriously because there are some things at play this time around that weren't there in the 1970s. You did not have rightwing media organs out there actively trying

to undermine public trust in our government. You did not have a complicit United States Congress that, instead of doing oversight, seems to be spending more of its effort running cover for the administration, trying to hide the facts, trying to block investigations, playing tribal politics at its worst, instead of fulfilling our institutional role in a critical constitutional test like this.

I think it is a very, very serious moment in our history, and I am glad that the gentleman is convening discussions like this on the floor. We have to make sure that, in this investigation, the professional law enforcement personnel who do this for a living are allowed to do their job so that we can all learn the truth, whatever that may be.

The question is: What are they afraid of? What are they hiding?

This investigation is going to answer those questions, and we will all accept those answers, whatever they may be, but we have got to let the system work.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership tonight.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

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#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. MCCLINTOCK (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and January 30 on account of an illness.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and January 30 on account of death in family.

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#### SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1873. An act to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program to establish peer specialists in patient aligned care teams at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Of-

ficial Foreign Travel during the fourth quarter of 2017, pursuant to Public Law 95–384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2017.

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. Jan Schakowsky .....	11/16	11/18	Bangladesh .....		490.00						490.00
	11/19	11/22	Myanmar .....		369.00						369.00
							13,522.61				13,522.61
Committee total .....					859.00		13,522.61				14,381.61

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.  
<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. DIANE BLACK, Jan. 10, 2018.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3832. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's report entitled "Audit of the Exchange Stabilization Fund's Fiscal Years 2017 and 2016 Financial Statements", pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 5302(c)(2); Jan. 30, 1934, ch. 6, Sec. 10 (as amended by Public Law 97-258, Sec. 5302(c)(2)); (96 Stat. 994); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3833. A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Technical Amendments to Rules on Registration and Review of Exchange Disciplinary, Access Denial or Other Adverse Actions (RIN: 3038-AE15) received January 22, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3834. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Agency Reorganization (RIN: 3133-AE81) received January 22, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3835. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for the Division of Regulatory Services, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final regulations — National Institute on Disability Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) and Independent Living Programs, Outdated, Superseded Regulations (RIN: 1820-AB76) received January 24, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3836. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Administration's report to Congress entitled, "Ninth Annual Report on Delays in Approvals of Applications Related to Citizen Petitions and Petitions for Stay of Agency Action for Fiscal Year 2016", pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 355(q)(3); Public Law 110-85, Sec. 914(a); (121 Stat. 956); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3837. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's interim final rule — Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects: Delay of the Revisions to the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects received Jan-

uary 19, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3838. A letter from the Executive Director, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Annual Update of Filing Fees [Docket No.: RM18-3-000] received January 24, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3839. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects: Delay of the Revisions to the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects (RIN: 0937-AA06) received January 22, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3840. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Confidentiality of Substance Use Disorder Patient Records [SAMHSA-4162-20] (RIN: 0930-ZA07) received January 4, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3841. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's 2018 Report on Foreign Policy-Based Export Controls, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. app. 4605(f)(2); Public Law 96-72, Sec. 6(f)(2) (as amended by Public Law 99-64, Sec. 108(e)); (99 Stat. 133); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3842. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a designation of acting officer, nomination, and action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3843. A letter from the Chief Financial Officer, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting the Board's Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2017, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3844. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Federal Employees Health Benefits Program: Removal of Eligible and Ineligible Individuals from Existing

Enrollments (RIN: 3206-AN09) received January 24, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3845. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting an action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3846. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Adjustment of Civil Penalties for Inflation for Fiscal Year 2018 [NRC-2016-0166] (RIN: 3150-AJ83) received January 24, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3847. A letter from the Acting Chairman, Surface Transportation Board, transmitting the Board's final rule — Civil Monetary Penalties — 2018 Adjustment [Docket No.: EP 716 (Sub-No.: 3)] received January 24, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3848. A letter from the Senior Attorney, Division of Legislation and Regulations, Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of the America's Marine Highway Program Regulations (RIN: 2133-AB84) received January 25, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3849. A letter from the Senior Attorney, Division of Legislation and Regulations, Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Requirements To Document U.S.-Flag Fishing Industry Vessels of 100 Feet or Greater in Registered Length (RIN: 2133-AB86) received January 25, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3850. A letter from the Paralegal, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform [Docket No.: FHWA-2017-0003] (FHWA RIN: 2125-AF75; FTA RIN: 2132-AB33) received January 25, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3851. A letter from the Regulatory Ombudsman, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation,